

Sometimes as we are singing hymns, I am impressed by what great poems these are. So below find a beautiful hymn/poem to appreciate even without the music, though it may be playing in your head as you read. Michelle

Will You Let Me be Your Servant

Written by Richard Gillard, b.1953, written 1977

Will you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
Here together on the road,
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ light for you
In the night time of your fear,

I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping,
When you laugh I'll laugh with you,
I will share your joy and sorrow
Til we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God and heaven,
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

Upcoming Events

- **Stewardship time at Mason Church November/December** This month you are encouraged to make a monetary pledge for 2018 to Mason Church. Your pledge makes the job of planning a budget possible. Imagine trying to pay your own expenses without knowing how much money you actually have? Pledge cards are available at the table in the sanctuary, or from Darrell Scott, Treasurer. See stewardship letter at the end of newsletter.
- **Community Supper November 9, 2017 5:30 to 7pm** Join this sociable dinner for Shepherd's pie and all the trimmings. Bring a friend, or reach out to a new neighbor.
- **Mission: Nashua Soup Kitchen, November 11th.** Call Kathy Chapman to let her know if you plan on coming since we can't bring too many people, but need enough! Meet in the parking lot of the church at 3pm for carpooling. This is a mission open to all. Invite a friend or neighbor, and you may open an opportunity for another caring person. Call 878-4993 or email Kathy at chapman.kathy@gmail.com.
- **Conversations with Women Friday November 17th 2-4pm** Join this wisdom circle of women for lively conversations on a variety of topics. This month I have an article on Wisdom Circles for our discussion. Bring your knitting if you like. Open to all women, everywhere.

Mason Congregational Church November 2017

Please visit: www.masoncongregationalchurch.org or call us 878-1684

- **Coffee House November 18th 6:30 to 9 or so. Live Music in Mason!** Doors open at 6:30, signups for open mic, and snacks are available, with coffee! Fran LaMalva has been around for a while in these parts and has delighted every single crowd where he has performed. His polished and intricate guitar styles and arresting vocals capture each song exquisitely, whether it's one of his own compositions or a compelling cover. A very heartwarming experience! Not only does Fran play at the top-shelf level, but he builds his own guitars. His luthier business is located at <http://lizardeye.com/> and he hails from Hollis, NH.
- **First Sunday of Advent is Dec 3.** We will have our tree to decorate, greens to decorate our holy sanctuary, hot chocolate and treats for this special day of Advent—the beginning of the waiting.
- **Reaching out** The Deacons and Reverend Veronica have reached out to a Muslim community in Fitchburg to invite them to visit us in Mason. The purpose is to find common ground with those who are different from us. Several of the families, men and women and children came to worship service in April, and a grand group of 5 women, 2 teenagers, and 3 children came to our Conversations with Women. It was an excellent time of sharing, learning about each other's religion, and telling our 'women stories.' We will be looking for other ways to connect and share.
- **Lending Library Books and Music** Notice the fine bookshelf in Fellowship Hall that has books for lending—all nicely organized, and alphabetized by a church angel. Steve Tamulonis has contributed some CDs for lending/listening. Please sign them out, and return in a reasonable time. Enjoy this mission/blessing.
- **Prayer shawls still needed, free yarn available.** Spend some time by joining the knitters of Mason Church in prayerful knitting. Let us know if you need yarn or pattern. If you know of someone who needs the warmth and prayers of a shawl please contact: Susan Suokko at Usercat2@comcast.net or 941-920-0270 or Michelle Scott 878-1680
Attention knitters: Go to <http://twillnh.com/calendar-4/> and check out Sandy's website, and the schedule for activities there. It may be our next Conversations with Women outing!
- **Church Cleanup** happened on Nov 4, and the new floor, now polished, gives our church home a bright look. Thanks to all who came to tidy, clean, scrub, blow leaves, organize, etc. And lucky people received a delicious lunch as well!
- **Happy Birthday to all October birthdays, and there were many besides these two!** Deborah Prince-Smith had a 70th birthday, and Curt Dunn is climbing in the 80s. They are both blessed. Deborah's family joined us for the celebration with cakes for each, and Kathy Chapman wrote a Deborah and Curt song to the tune of Simple Gifts which you will find at the end of the newsletter.

Please visit: www.masoncongregationalchurch.org or call us 878-1684



Are you listening?

- ♥ **Wally and Gretchen Brown** Think about a visit, or a meal (gluten free/no dairy), or a card to cheer up Gretchen.
- ♥ **Laila Washburn** Since her fall this year, Laila has moved to Summer Hill Assisted Living in Peterborough. The transition was hard at first, but Laila has had many changes over her lifetime which she takes in stride, and she is making the most of this one. Her daughter says she has more company than ever! Her kind manner will win over all who meet her there. She loves company, and cards. At 98, everyday is treasured. Laila Washburn, Summer Hill, 183 Old Dublin Rd, Peterborough, NH 03458. Call ahead if you have questions. 924-6238
- ♥ We all remember that when there is the loss of a loved one, the loss continues to be felt for a very long time. Catherine Schwenk, Judy Wilkins, our Rev Veronica, Dotsie Milbrandt, Edie Fallon have all lost loved ones fairly recently. And now Eileen and Fred Cuda have also suffered a loss this past month as Eileen's brother died unexpectedly. Your prayers have power, as do your thoughts and courtesies!
- ♥ **Ed McCaffrey** brother of Eileen McCaffrey Cuda, and son of Marie McCaffrey, grew up in Mason along with his sisters. He died at 59 of cardiac arrest. His large extended family is greatly saddened, and held a memorial service, October 28. Fred and Eileen Cuda, 674 Longmeadow Dr, Longmeadow, MA 01106

The Curt and Deborah Birthday Song

Tis a gift to know Deborah
Tis a gift to know Curt
Tis a gift that they grace our little Mason church
And when their birthdays come, well it feels just
right
To be singing happy birthday with love and delight

Sing, songs, with Deborah in the lead
As song fills the church and song fills our need
To wish a happy day to our dear dear mates
To honor their births, to share their cakes.

Deborah is seventy, let us sing out with one voice
Sopranos, altos, tenors, basses, let us all rejoice
A day to be thankful for a long and happy gig,
A day to join hands, a day to dance a jig.

Sing, songs, with Deborah in the lead
As song fills the church and song fills our need
To wish a happy day to our dear dear mates
To honor their births, to share their cakes.

Curt keeps us laughing, even if he's not feeling the
best
Curt makes sickness and good health look just like
the same test
When we need some wisdom we only need to ask
And at pie auction time, Curt's bids take us to task.

Bid, high, with Curt in the lead
As donations fill the church, they are Curt's good
deed
And we wish a happy day to our dear dear mates
To honor their births, to share their cakes.

Annual Pledge Drive

Oct. 28, 2017

What do you get in return for every dollar you pledge?

You support a pastorship of preaching, teaching, counseling, visitation, and Christian sacraments. You see children grow in knowledge and character through our Sunday school and nursery. You are maintaining a set of historical buildings that are a cornerstone to our town and which provide a wonderful space for worship, weddings, and memorial services. You are providing music to our souls at each worship service. You are enabling community events of dinners and coffee houses to introduce us to new neighbors and to unite us with old friends. You provide a safe space to worship God and a place for people to minister to each other.

We are proud to be a small congregation that does much. We have numerous small ministries in addition to those already mentioned; helping with the Nashua soup kitchen, providing countless prayer shawls for the sick and bereaved, maintaining a Diaconate fund that is available for families in need. Year to date giving to St. Vincent de Paul and UCC special offerings is over \$4000.

We are all in this congregational life together and when we all contribute our fair share of time and money, we can accomplish much. Life goes in cycles; those who are in the abundance side of the cycle can pull a little harder for those who are suffering through the adversities of life. Let us hope that when we are in the difficult times, others will be available to pull a little harder in our place. In summary, we are investing in our own spiritual growth and in the spiritual growth of our local towns. Thank you for your past generosity. Thank you for your future generosity.

Church Council Members, Darrell Scott, Treasurer Reverend Veronica Don, Dotsie Millbrandt, Council Chair
Karin Eisenhaure Secretary, Mike Goen Trustee Chair, Marlene Damary Christian Education, Judy Wilkins
Gifts and Nomination, Michelle Scott Deacon Chair

Please return a pledge card to the treasurer in the collection plate or in person.

Pledges can also be received over the phone or by email.
